

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

A/ 1. (Currently amended) A vehicle hinge assembly for hinging a vehicle door on a vehicle body, the assembly comprising a first hinge leaf hingedly connected to a second hinge leaf by a pivot pin, the pivot pin being immovably mounted in one hinge leaf and being rotatably mounted in, and being axially withdrawable from, the other hinge leaf, and hinge pin retention means associated with said other hinge leaf ~~fro~~ preventing axial withdrawal of the hinge pin therefrom, the hinge pin retention means having hinge pin engagement means movably mounted on said other hinge leaf for movement between first and second positions, the engagement means in its first position engaging with an annular groove formed in with the hinge pin permit rotation of the hinge pin but prevent its axial movement relative to said other hinge leaf, and in its second position being spaced from the hinge pin to permit its axial withdrawal from said other hinge leaf.

ob, 2. (Currently amended) A hinge assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said hinge pin ~~is provided with an annular groove which co-operates with said hinge pin engagement means to permit rotation of the hinge pin whilst preventing its axial withdrawal~~ engagement means is a ball bearing located in a housing which is movably mounted in a bore formed in said other hinge leaf for movement between said first and second positions, said housing when in said first position maintaining said ball bearing in engagement with said annular groove.

1/2' 3. (Currently amended) A hinge assembly according to Claim 1 & 2 wherein said ~~hinge pin engagement means is a ball bearing~~ the housing is screw threadedly mounted in said bore so as to be movable therealong by a screw action.

ob' 4. (Currently amended) A hinge assembly according to Claim 3, ~~wherein each hinge leaf comprises a body cast from metal to define a shell including a boss having a bore in which the hinge pin is located~~ the ball bearing is rotatably mounted in said housing.

ob' 5. (Currently amended) A hinge assembly according to Claim 2 ~~Claim 4~~ wherein ~~said ball bearing is housed in a housing, the housing being axially movably located in a bore formed in the boss of said other hinge leaf~~ the ball assembly is non-rotatably mounted in said housing.

Al' ob' 6. (Currently amended) A hinge assembly according to Claim 2 ~~Claim 5~~ wherein ~~the bore housing said ball bearing housing is formed in a wall projection integrally cast with said boss of said other hinge leaf, said wall projection being interleaved with said one hinge leaf over a predetermined angular range of movement about said hinge pin in order to prevent axial separation of the hinge leaves~~ the ball bearing and said annular groove each have the same radius of curvature.

7. (Cancelled).

ob' 8. (Currently amended) ~~A vehicle hinge assembly for hanging a vehicle door on a vehicle body, the assembly comprising a first hinge leaf hingedly connected to a second hinge leaf by a pivot pin,~~ A hinge assembly according to Claim 2, wherein each hinge leaf comprises ~~comprising~~ a body cast from a metal to define a shell including a boss having a bore in which the hinge pin is located.

Please add the following new Claims 9-25.

Al' ob' 9. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claim 6, wherein the annular groove has a depth which is less than the radius of curvature of the ball bearing.

10. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claim 8 wherein the bore housing said ball bearing is formed in a wall projection integrally cast with said boss of said other hinge leaf, said wall projection being interleaved with said one hinge leaf over a predetermined angular range of movement about said hinge pin in order to prevent axial separation of the hinge leafs.

11. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claim 2, the ball bearing is rotatably mounted in said housing.

12. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claims 3 the ball assembly is non-rotatably mounted in said housing.

13. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claims 3 wherein the ball bearing and said annular groove each have the same radius of curvature.

14. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claims 4 wherein the ball bearing and said annular groove each have the same radius of curvature.

15. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claims 5 wherein the ball bearing and said annular groove each have the same radius of curvature.

16. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claim 3, wherein each hinge leaf comprises a body cast from a metal to define a shell including a boss having a bore in which the hinge pin is located.

17. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claim 4, wherein each hinge leaf comprises a body cast from a metal to define a shell including a boss having a bore in which the hinge pin is located.

18. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claim 5, wherein each hinge leaf

comprises a body cast from a metal to define a shell including a boss having a bore in which the hinge pin is located.

19. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claim 6, wherein each hinge leaf comprises a body cast from a metal to define a shell including a boss having a bore in which the hinge pin is located.

20. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claim 7, wherein each hinge leaf comprises a body cast from a metal to define a shell including a boss having a bore in which the hinge pin is located.

21. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claim 16 wherein the bore housing said ball bearing is formed in a wall projection integrally cast with said boss of said other hinge leaf, said wall projection being interleaved with said one hinge leaf over a predetermined angular range of movement about said hinge pin in order to prevent axial separation of the hinge leafs.

22. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claim 17 wherein the bore housing said ball bearing is formed in a wall projection integrally cast with said boss of said other hinge leaf, said wall projection being interleaved with said one hinge leaf over a predetermined angular range of movement about said hinge pin in order to prevent axial separation of the hinge leafs.

23. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claim 18 wherein the bore housing said ball bearing is formed in a wall projection integrally cast with said boss of said other hinge leaf, said wall projection being interleaved with said one hinge leaf over a predetermined angular range of movement about said hinge pin in order to prevent axial separation of the hinge leafs.

A2 24. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claim 19 wherein the bore housing said ball bearing is formed in a wall projection integrally cast with said boss of said other hinge leaf, said wall projection being interleaved with said one hinge leaf over a predetermined angular range of movement about said hinge pin in order to prevent axial separation of the hinge leafs.

25. (New) A hinge assembly according to Claim 20 wherein the bore housing said ball bearing is formed in a wall projection integrally cast with said boss of said other hinge leaf, said wall projection being interleaved with said one hinge leaf over a predetermined angular range of movement about said hinge pin in order to prevent axial separation of the hinge leafs.
